

DISCUSS TAXATION

Business Men Have Local Conditions Under Consideration.

ADDRESS BY MR. HENRY E. DAVIS

General Government's Obligation to Pay One-Half District's Expenses.

THE ASSOCIATION'S BANQUET

Taxation, personal and real, was the theme at the regular monthly meeting of the Business Men's Association at the Hotel Barton last night. The meeting, which was English assembly, was called to order by President Mitchell Dyrenforth shortly after 8 o'clock. Secretary Barry Bulkley read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved, and then presented a circular letter which has been addressed to various merchants throughout the city the name of the association, requesting their support in securing an amendment to the new code which shall increase the penalty for shoplifting. Mr. Bulkley explained that at the present time the penalty for this offense is entirely inadequate. The amendment proposed provides a penalty of not more than \$300 fine nor more than twelve months' imprisonment for a person convicted of shoplifting. Both fine and imprisonment may be imposed in the discretion of the court. The amendment was adopted by unanimous vote.

Henry F. Woodard, chairman of the special committee appointed to examine the proposed personal law, in a report to the association, typewritten and read by Mr. Woodard, stated that the citizens of the District are being unjustly taxed, and that the United States government is not bearing its proportion of the taxation.

Mr. V. Baldwin Johnson, a member of the committee, made a supplemental report, attacking the law. Dr. Robert Royce, also typewritten and read by Mr. Johnson, the appointment of a committee for the consideration of the personal tax question, which was adopted.

Mr. Davis' Address.

Mr. Henry E. Davis was then introduced. Mr. Davis announced the subject of his address the relation of the United States to the District of Columbia. He said that, he was opposed to a personal tax law, and believed that the crisis through which the District was now passing should be met by the government assuming its proper share of the expense, which was not one-half, or three-quarters, but at least seven-eighths. He urged the members of the association to agitate the matter and go before Congress and urge the assumption of the proper burden of expending by the general government. In the beginning, he said, the federal government understood its responsibility. For a time the government assumed complete control of the city and administration of the government.

In 1818 President Monroe called the attention of Congress to the fact that the government of the District was not in accord with the principles of the United States. The matter of representation was then agitated and Congress gave the people the right to elect a mayor and a council.

Date of Agreement.

Mr. Davis claimed that the question of the ratio of payment of the expenses of the District between the general and city governments was decided in 1820, when suffrage was first allowed the District. It was then that Congress agreed to pay one-half of the expense and the District the other, and not in 1878, as some of the government officials proudly claimed. Congress was not a city of residence only, and it should be made to pay its share of the expense. Mr. Davis said that it does not want to be surrounded by the working classes. The government is a city of residence only, and this square of ground was staked out so that the government officials and Congress might be free from mobs of working men and women. He said that supposed injustice, might wreck the public buildings and perhaps assassinate a few of the officials. Mr. Davis said that this was a very brutal way of putting the matter, but that it was true. In concluding his address, Mr. Davis urged the members of the association to call upon their friends in Congress to take up the share of the burden of taxation.

After the banquet, a speech was concluded, a general discussion of the personal tax question was engaged in by members of the association.

The Personal Tax Law.

H. H. Darnelle, assessor of the District, explained the features of the new bill, of which he is reputed to be the author, creating a new basis for personal tax assessments.

This bill is now before Congress. The association unanimously indorsed the bill which was introduced by the author, authorizing the acceptance of two payments for District taxes annually.

The association unanimously decided to give a banquet to their friends in the members of the District committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

MR. H. KOHLSTADT RETIRES.

Succeeded on Chicago Record-Herald by Mr. F. B. Noyes.

A dispatch from Chicago, Ill., yesterday says:

Mr. H. Kohlstadt, to whom is attributed the Record-Herald, and thereby terminates his career as an editor. His abandonment of the editorial pen for commercial life marks another important change in the Chicago newspaper field.

That Mr. Kohlstadt still retains his financial interest in the paper is shown by the editorial announcement which will head the editorial page tomorrow morning, and which reads:

"With this issue of the Record-Herald I wish to announce that I have turned over its editorship and entire business management to Frank R. Noyes, who as publisher has been associated with me for several years. I am glad to see the Record-Herald consolidated of the two papers last April.

"By this step I seek release from those exacting duties which for seven years have engrossed my time, to the neglect of other matters and interests which now demand a large share of my personal attention.

"I shall retain close and intimate relations with the Record-Herald as a part owner of the company and owner of over 60 percent of its stock.

"It is the source of the greatest satisfaction to me to be able to commend Mr. Noyes to the good will and confidence which have been so generously and loyally bestowed upon me. I could not attempt my own withdrawal from the paper without a word of high appreciation of his services, and I would more unequivocally than by the great trust which I hereby surrender into his hands.

"H. KOHLSTADT."

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FIERCE BATTLE UNDER GROUND.

Gold Ore Thieves and Mine Guards

Engaged in a Fight.

A dispatch from Victor, Colo., yesterday says: A desperate battle 400 feet under ground between ore thieves and officers and trusted employees occurred in the Independence, on Battle Mountain, today.

Between fifty and seventy-five shots were exchanged between the opposing parties. Lee Glockner, a member of the company's force, was shot twice, but not seriously injured.

The fight was most determined, but the thieves finally gained the upper hand and forced the company men to retreat toward the big shaft, giving the thieves an opportunity to escape. The management of Stratton's Independence Company of Leadville, England, which owns the Independence mine, has been aware for a long time that rich deposits of silvante in the mine were being systematically robbed. The company has been unable to detect the thieves for a month. Detectives were employed and it is said the thieves were detected in the act of looting a rich seam of ore. The discovery amounted to thousands of dollars connected with an adjoining property.